January 19, 2008
We celebrated Gary's birthday at home with the kids ...

... then the next day we stayed in Sonoma in the wine country, a Christmas gift from Marc, Amanda and Alexis.

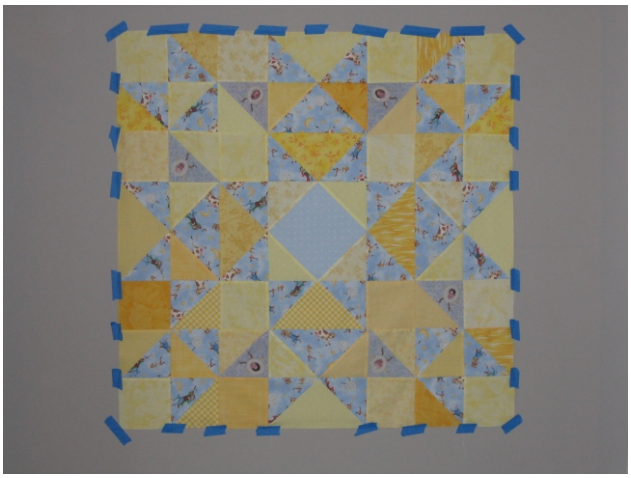
January 20, 2008
We explored the town of Sonoma, staying at the historic Sonoma Inn and enjoying dinner at The Girl and the Fig.

January 21, 2008
We visited Alexis in San Francisco and stayed overnight at the WorldMark resort near Union Square.

February 17, 2008
Alexis hosted a beading party at our home

Gary provided music to bead by and entertained Beverly's mom Helen with a variety of songs from the 30's and 40's

February 23, 2008
On Sharon's 59th birthday she completed a "Hey Diddle Diddle" baby quilt for her grandbaby due in May (with the exception of embroidering the baby's name in the center block to be added after the baby is born).



The Crystal Star design was used for the center of the quilt.

The faces of family members were added to the "dish" pictures using digital photography sew-on inkjet fabric sheets.

The completed baby quilt

February 24, 2008
We celebrated
Sharon's birthday
at Hunan Restaurant

February 28, 2007
The Arne Nixon
Center Advocates
Tea for Life Members
at the home of
Denise Sciandra

Members of the Norelma Walker Youth Library acted as chefs and "scullery maids" at the tea

Sharon provided the decor for the Leo Politi themed tea party

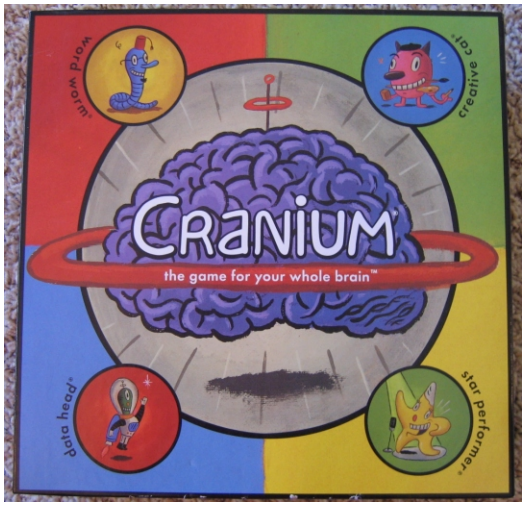
Angelica Carpenter, founding curator of the Arne Nixon Center with Denise Sciandra, president of the ANCA board of directors

The Life Members enjoyed the tea and the presentation about author Leo Politi

Peter McDonald, dean of the CSUF Library

Denise giving the Leo Politi presentation

Sal Sciandra, fresh from a day at his law office, washing tea cups



February 2008
"Out of Your Cranium!" wall hanging quilt designed, fabricated and hand quilted by Sharon Rossi

This quilt was completed for the San Joaquin Valley Quilters Guild challenge quilt competition with the theme "Games people play" using digital photography sew-on ink jet fabric sheets.

The design was completed with decorative hand quilting

The finished quilt

March 2, 2008

We held a baby shower for Amanda and Marc at our home

The decor was influenced by the art of Miroslav Sasek ...

... and vases full of spring flowers

Ivy Darden made her delicious chocolate cake with homemade raspberry sorbet

Amy, Alexis and Amanda - the librarians

We played some fun baby shower games

Amanda's mother, Katherin McCoy flew in from Texas to attend the baby shower

Both grandmothers made handmade gifts for the baby. Sharon made a quilt and Katherin crocheted a blanket and pillow.

Amanda and Marc received dozens of beautiful gifts for their baby from friends and family

Marc and Amanda posing with their mountain of baby shower gifts

March 8, 2008
Home Gardening "Tea and Talk" at the home of Linda Arredondo and Ivy Darden

Home Gardening members are admiring the new garden designed by Jody Palmer

Home Gardening co-chair An Brunelle in the garden

Madeleine Mitchell gave a demonstration on flower arranging before the tea

Decor for this tea by Sharon Rossi

Ivy's delicious desserts

Home Gardening co-chair Linda Knight washing up

March 21, 2008
Hannah's tea party
Linda and Ivy brought tea and treats for a tea party for Linda's granddaughter Hannah.

Hannah's birthday cake and her new bike.

March 22, 2008
Dying eggs for the Easter Egg Race

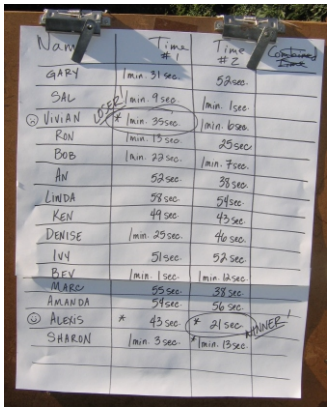
March 23, 2008
Easter and Alexis' birthday

Chocolate birthday cake by Ivy

Next year baby Alexander will join our Easter celebration

This year Marc designed an elevated egg race obstacle course ending with an egg cannon

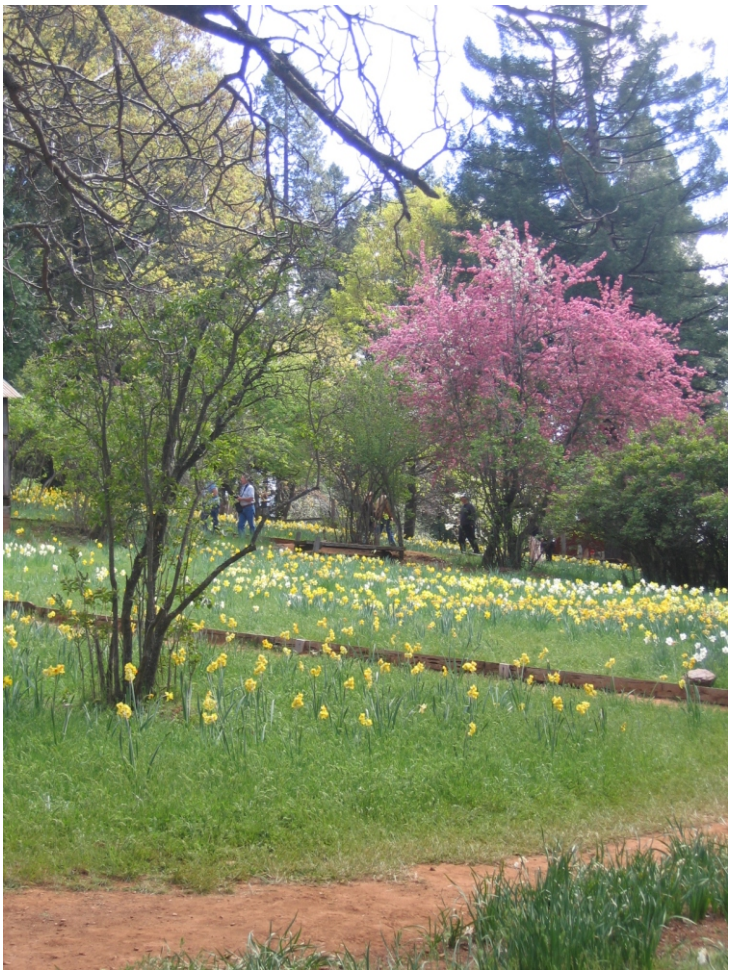
Alexis was this year's First Place Champion, and Vivian claimed the Last Place Champion's prize!



Later, we enjoyed our Easter baskets and Alexis opened her birthday gifts

April 6, 2008
We took a two day trip into the Gold Country. Our first stop was the small gold mining town of Sutter Creek.

We visited Daffodil Hill which was in full bloom.

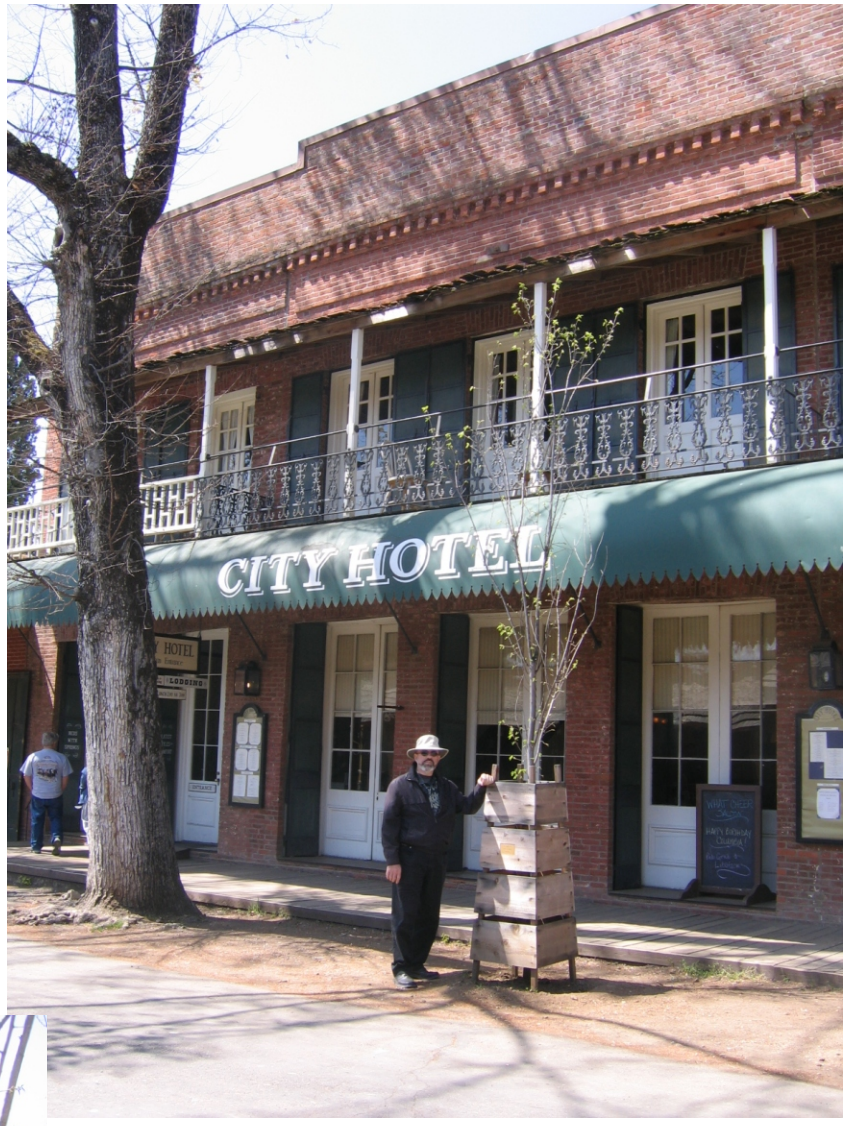


Daffodil Hill

We stayed at the WorldMark resort in Angels Camp. Gary sells their vacation ownership, and this is one of the resorts.

April 7, 2008
Sharon is standing on a redwood tree stump in Calaveras Big Trees state park. Notice the snow at 5000 feet elevation.

Columbia State Historic Park is a town that has been preserved as it was during the 1849 California gold rush.



April 21, 2008
Sharon's garden in spring

April 26, 2008
Our nephew, Christopher Burns came from Ohio for a visit.

We attended a breakfast at the home of Ivy & Linda before we set off on the Master Gardener Tour. Christopher pitched in, hulling strawberries.

Linda, An, Denise, Christopher and Ivy on the Master Gardener Tour.

Dinner at home with the whole family

April 27, 2008
Gary, Sharon, Christopher and Alexis spent the day at Yosemite.

Lunch at the Ahwahnee Hotel

The raging waters of Yosemite Falls

A view of Half Dome

The Clark Center for Japanese Art & Culture in Hanford, Ca

Sharon painting in the garage

May 2, 2008
Outdoor movie at Deauville Park across the street from our home

Alexander Dominic Rossi

Born May 22, 2008 at 12:31 p.m. to Amanda Dinscore and Marc Rossi
9 pounds, 5 ounces - 21.5 inches long

May 22, 2008
Baby Alexander at St. Agnes Hospital with his admirers

May 23, 2008
Alexander goes home

May 24, 2008
Alexander "working out" on his quilt

Gary tries out his new bike, an early Father's Day present from the family

May 26 through June 4, 2008
Getting to know
Alexander Dominic Rossi

June 4 through June 8, 2008
Granny Katherin McCoy from Texas visiting Alexander in Fresno

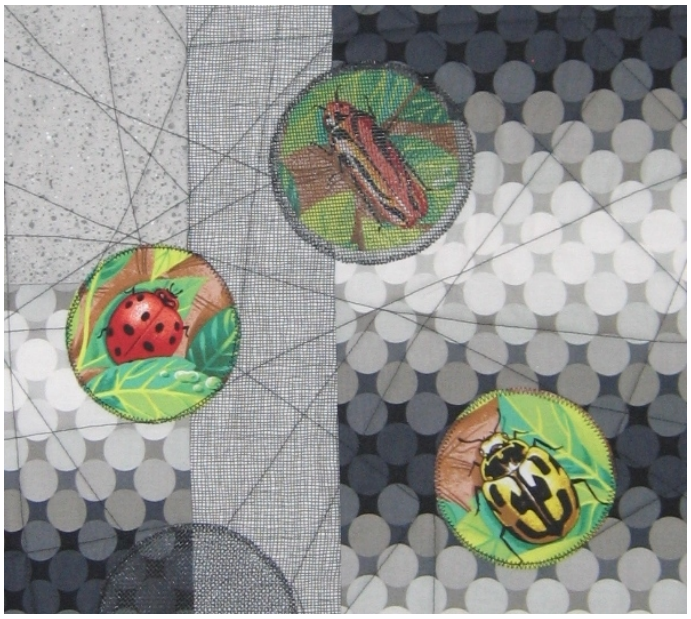
Art quilt designed, fabricated and machine quilted by Sharon Rossi.
The poem was written by Sharon Rossi, grandmother of Alexander Dominic Rossi, on the occasion of his birth, May 22, 2008 a windy and wonderful day.
This poem is dedicated to Amanda Dinscore, Mother Wind, and Marc Rossi, my own baby always.

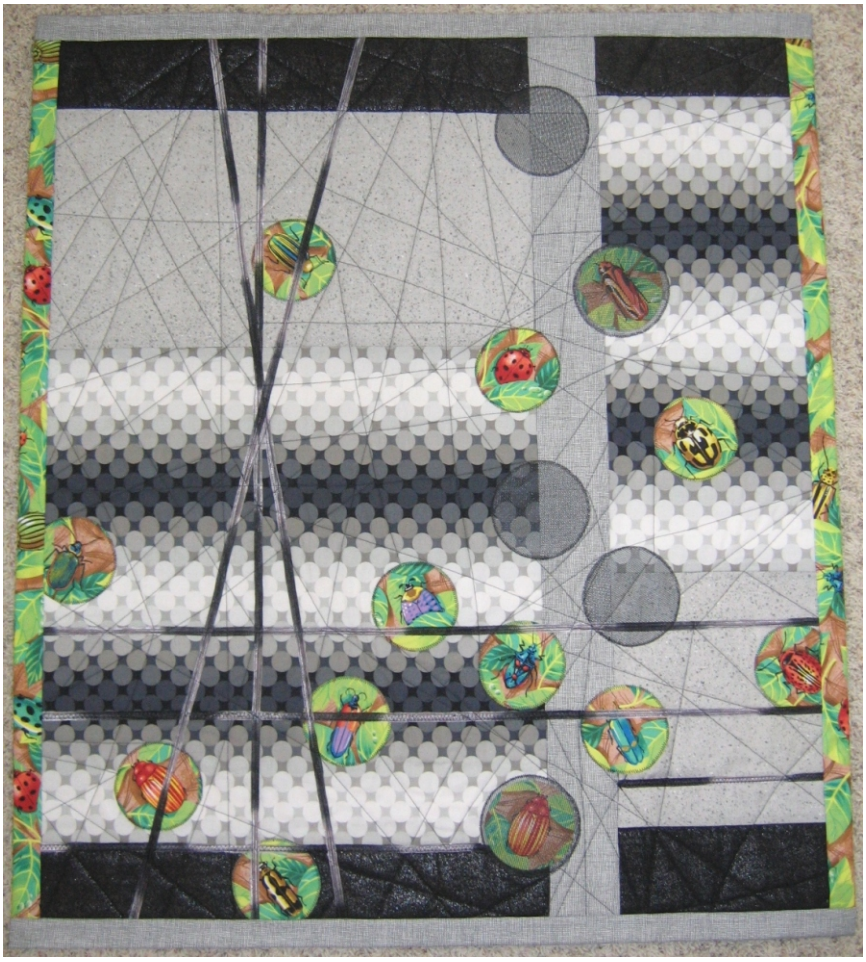
“Jazz” series art quilts designed, fabricated and machine quilted by Sharon Rossi

Jazz #1
“Flower Shards” quilt
April 2008

Jazz #2
“Deer Scroll” quilt
April 2008

Jazz #3
“Keeping the Bugs Out” quilt
May 2008





Jazz #4
“Birds of a Feather” quilt
June 2008

June 15, 2008
Birthday party to celebrate Cameron Rossi's third birthday in Tracy, CA

California Highway Patrol Officer Tony Rossi and his mother, Bettie

The Ohio Rossi family came to California to meet new babies Bradley and Alexander:

Janet, Nick & Bettie, Tina & Mike, Sage & Solana, Monica & Steve, Maya & Nathan visiting Tony & Erica, Domenick, Cameron & Bradley, Gary & Sharon, Alexis, Marc & Amanda, Katherin and Alexander

Alexander and his cousin Bradley, born three weeks apart

Aunt Janet with her newest great nephews wearing their “Rossi University” onesies

Gary and Mike Petrone playing together

June 16, 2008
Steve Hiday and Alexis lifeguarding in the pool at the Tracy rental house

Drama queens in full makeup

Alexis, Tina and Monica re-created the Mexican birthday dinner they prepared for Aunt Janet when they were ten years old!

Happy Birthday, Janet!

Aunt Janet leads a conga line to “La Cucaracha” and shows the kids how to attack a pinata

Aunt Janet reads a story to the nieces and nephews

June 22, 2008
Alexander's personal photographers Matt May and Suzanne Ricca came to Clovis and take photos of the new baby. They came bearing gifts from their recent photo shoots in Bolivia and Chile.

A Star is Born!!!

Grandma and Papa holding baby Alexander

July 1, 2008
Sharon painted over her mural in the piano room, then hung her newest quilt "Oceano"

Painting of Verbena bonarensis to be auctioned at the Clovis Botanical Garden gala

July 6, 2008
While visiting in Clovis, Alexis hosted a small beading party and spent time with her nephew Alexander

July 12, 2008
Partida del Verano,
a summer party with
Mexican inspired
food, decor & music

Ivy and Linda made delicious carnitas, refried beans, spanish rice, guacamole and flan for the party

We served paletas from La Reina de Michoacan and agave margaritas

July 20, 2008
We visited the Nelder Grove of giant redwoods and spent the night at the WorldMark Bass Lake resort

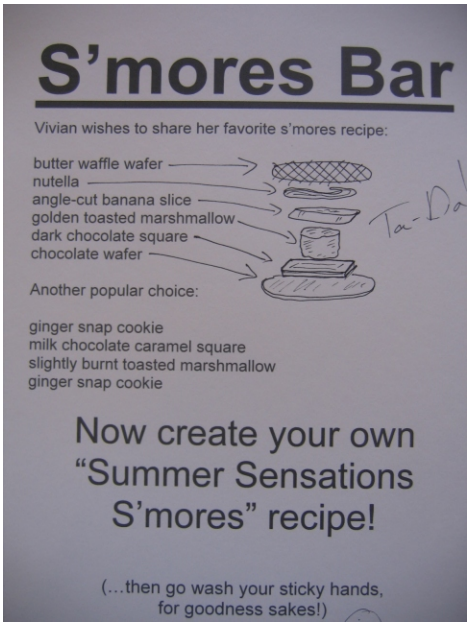
“Squares Squared”
art quilt
by Sharon Rossi
July 2008

The completed quilt

“Under Lock and Key”
art quilt
by Sharon Rossi
August 2008

August 9, 2008
Alexander posing on his "Hey Diddle Diddle" quilt

August 16 & 23, 2008
We held "End of the Summer" parties on two Saturdays in August.



The menu for the parties included sno-cone, fruit drinks and gourmet s'mores for dessert.

Everyone shared vacation stories and photos and we sang summer songs.

Alexander Dominic Rossi, three months old, playing with his daddy and mama at grandma and papa's house

August 30, 2008

September 7, 2008 - Alex and his peeps

September 20-23, 2008
Front yard redesign

September 21, 2008 - Marriott Shadow Ridge in Palm Desert, CA. Gary starts work here in October 2008.

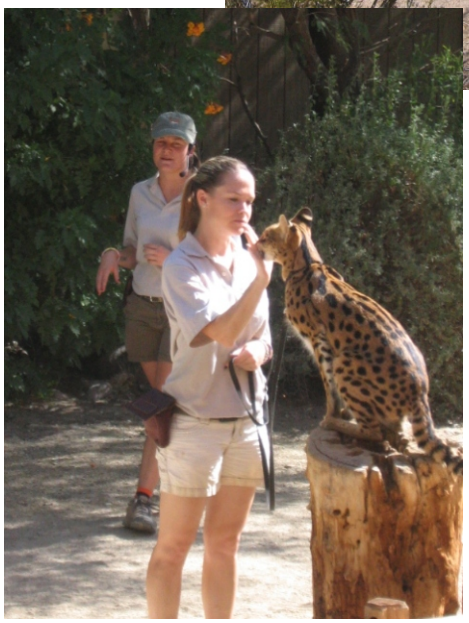
October 5, 2008
Aunt Alexis and four month old Alexander

October 18-20, 2008
Sharon visited the
Palm Desert area

Date palm trees

Joshua Tree
National Park

Joshua Tree National Park



“The Living Desert” botanical gardens and zoo in Palm Desert

October 25, 2008
Preparing our entries for the "Potato Pageant" party

Marc's entry: "Road Kill"

Alexis' entry: "Drunk Driving after the Prom"

October 26, 2008
"Potato Pageant Party"

We enjoyed potato leek soup, a baked potato bar, and Ivy and Linda's non-potato desserts

Display of some of the pageant entries

Judging of the "Potato Pageant" by popular vote

Alexander models his Halloween costume created by Granny Katherin

Alexis created a jeweled crown for the pageant winning potato

Beverly Gibson was the pageant winner with her "Pole Dancing Potato"

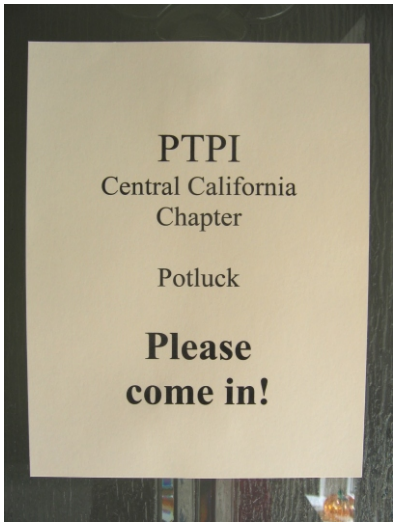
Trophies were awarded in five categories: Winner, Ms. Congeniality, Sassy Spud, Tricked-Out Tater and Spud Dud.

Herr Smoochie von Kissy Face

November 9, 2008
Family photo shoot day

Professional photographers Matt May and Suzanne Ricca took photos of Alex and the whole family

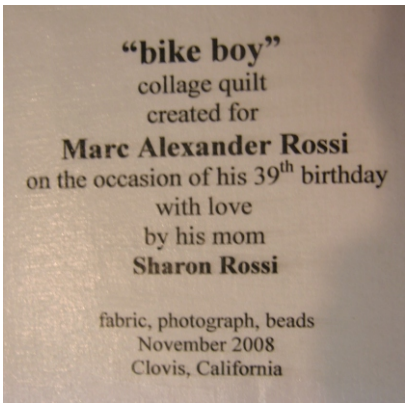
November 16, 2008 - Central California Chapter of People to People International potluck dinner



Faith Mabry, a sixth grade student at Saroyan Elementary, was awarded a $200 scholarship to attend the PTPI World Leadership forum in Washington, D.C. by chapter president Rich Berrett

California State University Fresno international students Luscalors Lucien Nana Yobo (Cameroon), Carl Rebello (Kuwait/India), Syed Rameez Hasan (Pakistan) with Faith Mabry. We had the opportunity to talk with these international students about their home countries.

November 17, 2008
To celebrate his 39th birthday, Marc came down with a stomach virus and could not eat his birthday brownies!



Papa & Alex playing the piano

"Love Story"
art quilt
designed, fabricated and quilted by
Sharon Rossi
to commemorate our
40th Wedding Anniversary on
November 22, 2008.

Photos include our wedding portrait and other photos from our life together including photos of our two children Marc and Alexis. our daughter-in-law Amanda and our grandson Alexander.

Clovis, California

November 26 to 30, 2008
Sharon and Gary spent Thanksgiving week at the JW Marriott hotel in Palm Desert

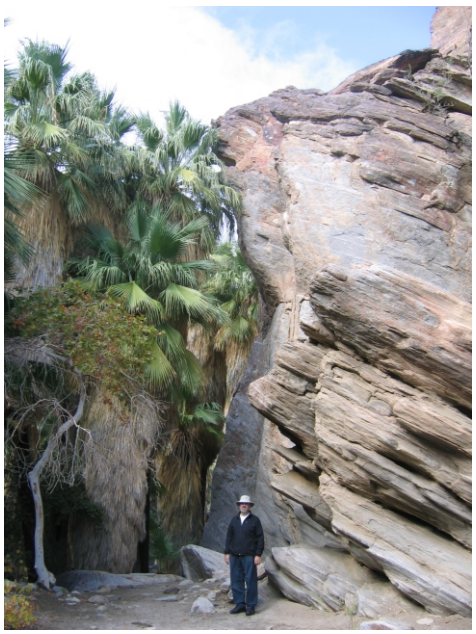
From the lobby of the hotel, boats take guests to the outlying restaurants on the property

Flamingos, swans and ducks inhabit the lakes on the hotel property

We hiked in Indian Canyons on Cahuilla reservation land

This is the largest stand of native California Fan Palm trees

Views of Palm Canyon and Andreas Canyon on the Cahuilla reservation



Views of Palm Canyon and Andreas Canyon on the Cahuilla reservation